

TESTIMONY on HB 6390  
An Act Concerning Access to Postsecondary Education  
March 15, 2011

My name is Terry Freeman. I have lived in New Haven over 40 years, working as a high school teacher, and later as a social worker. My current position is Director of Adolescent Programs at The Consultation Center, where my work include training, consultation, and program development for youth programs around the state.

In my work, in my neighborhood of Fair Haven, and in my parish church, St. Rose of Lima, I have met and come to know well a number of immigrant students who would benefit from HB 6390.

These students are academically equal (and sometimes better) than their peers. They are proficient in English, and are outstanding students, taking Advanced Placement courses, studying for the SATs, working hard to get good grades. They play sports, join dance groups, tutor younger children for community service, help their parents at home, and teach catechism at their church. Their teachers and their schools recommend them for college study, and their parents value education and back it up with huge sacrifices. In short, they are not very different from American-born students who want to continue their education.

Many people who know them have encouraged these students to continue their education, but since they are ineligible for federal loans and grants, out-of-state tuition is a huge obstacle at Connecticut's public colleges and universities. They are not asking for scholarships, but only for access to the same tuition rate charged of their classmates.

These students are academically qualified to attend college. They are fully bilingual, they live here, and they think of Connecticut as their home. They desperately want to continue their education. There is room for them in our colleges, we are told. Connecticut needs an educated population, and they have SO MUCH to contribute. I believe it would be wrong to waste their talents, and believe that this bill will be good for all of us.

Please consider these arguments carefully, and vote yes on HB 6390.

Teresa Freeman  
74 Perkins Street  
New Haven, CT 06513